

## THEY CANNOT WRITE.

PROMINENT PEOPLE WHOSE SIGNATURES ARE ILLEGIBLE.

Sample of the Quicer Chirography of Bank Officials in Various States—Old-Time Characters Who Handled the Quill with Notable Clumsiness.

It has been said that bad writing is a sign of genius. If that be true then the woods are full of geniuses. They grow on every American bush, as it were, and, with Hamlet, seem to

"Hold it! A baseness to write fair, and labor much

How to forget that learning."

There may be method in all this madness of handwriting. Poor chirography may serve to cover a multitude of other sins, and certain unfortunate individuals may have the same excuse to offer as did the Harvard freshman when reminded of his illegible chirography.

"It's all very well to tell me to write better," was the rejoinder, "but, if I were to write better, some people would find out how I spell."

But when it comes to queer signatures—which may be taken as a fair sample of one's handwriting—bank officials lead the procession. This rather remarkable signature for instance, is the invention of the Indiana bank cashier, John Mohr, Jr.:

Arkansas' contribution to this chirographical collection comes from the pen of Lloyd Bowers, a bank cashier, and looks like this:

An ordinary individual would take the following as a first-class schoolboy attempt to make the figures "11,000," but the former Vice-President of a New York State bank, H. G. Nolton, claims it as his signature:

Canada will not be outstripped when it comes to illegible writing, and in the person of R. J. B. Crombie, manager of a bank, has this to offer:

When it comes to a unique signature Kansas comes forward for the palm. It is necessary, however, to explain that these remarkable characters stand for the name of F. C. Miller, cashier:

This looks like a reminder of an overturned bottle of ink, but it is in reality the name of Carmon Parse, cashier of a bank in New Jersey:

This remarkable conglomeration of lines might be taken for a specimen of hieroglyphics or a Chinese puzzle, but it is the name of Ponce de Leon:

A fearless signature represents Texas, and it belongs to the president of a national bank, Tom Randolph by name:

It is said to have once been the boast of knights and gentlemen that they could not write—in fact, that it was the sign of a gentleman not to be able to write. Some of the illegible signatures of nobility certainly stand in evidence of this old belief, the following, for example, being the chirographic effort of Bartholomew Columbus:

Several years ago a prize was offered

ed to one who could decipher this peculiar bit of pen-scratching. But twenty-five persons out of hundreds of guessers made it out to be that of W. P. Hazen, who hails from a national bank in Kansas:

This spiral arrangement is supposed to read, W. D. Mussenden, and it comes forward as a specimen of Eastern ingenuity:

The Columbus family was evidently a family of poor writers, as Don Diego Columbus could do no better. This is his handiwork:

His son, also Don Diego Columbus, followed in his father's footsteps when he came to writing, for this is what he produced:

Fernando Columbus kept up his end of the line with this ornamental contribution:

Pope Leo had a striking way of signing his name, and he did it after this fashion:

Explorers made some unique contributions in this line, the first of the following being the signature of Fernando De Soto, the second that of Francis Drake, the third of Amerigo Vespucci:

One would not easily believe Mary Anderson—"our Mary"—guilty of such an unsightly signature, yet this scrawl came from her pen:

Baby McKee, by the way, has a signature worthy to be given, and in fact outshines some of the efforts of nobility. Here it is:

These are Gubernatorial signatures, the first being perpetrated by Sir Edmund Andros, the second by John Young Brown, the third by Thomas Culpepper:

This is intended as the name of Morgan Dix, the clergyman:

Some interesting stories are told of illegible signatures, one being about that of Charles Sumner. It is related that he received once a letter as follows from a Massachusetts lad:

"The Hon. Charles Sumner—Dear Sir: A pamphlet came to Mr. — (I have forgotten his name) with a signature upon it. By the aid of Webster's Unabridged, the Latin and Greek lexicons, and the assistance of my high school teacher I have made it out to be your name. If that is so, and you can do it again, please do it for me, and oblige. Yours very truly,

And this is the answer which Mr. Sumner graciously returned:

"My Dear Young Friend—I am glad to learn that you have so many helps to education. It was my name, I can do it again, and here it is. Yours very truly,

The sequel to this incident is that the youth and Mr. Sumner afterward developed a strong friendship, which was broken only by death.

Another story is told on Charles Dudley Warner when he was editor of an Eastern paper. It was at the beginning of the civil war, and as he had been attempting to arouse patriotism with his pen he was especially pleased when one of the typesetters came into the office, and planting himself firmly in front of the editorial desk, said:

"Well, Mr. Warner, I've decided to enlist in the army."

The response was to the effect that he

was glad the man felt the call of duty.

"O, it isn't that," said the truthful compositor, "but I'd rather be shot than try to set any more of your copy."

Here is still another story, which says that a Yale student had his examination paper returned by the professor with a note scrawled on the margin. The student wearied his brain in trying to decipher the bit of information, and finally said to the professor:

"I can't quite make out what this is, if you please."

"That, sir," said the professor, "why, that says: 'I cannot read your handwriting.' You write illegibly, sir."

But the experience of Thomas Bailey Aldrich is the experience of many another mortal. He once received a letter from Prof. E. S. Morse, of Salem, Mass., that was simply incapable of being read. And this is the unique reply that Prof. Morse received:

"My Dear Mr. Morse—It was very pleasant for me to get a letter from you the other day. Perhaps I should have found it pleasant if I had been able to decipher it. I don't think I mastered anything beyond the date (which I guessed at). There's a singular and perpetual charm in a letter of yours—it never grows old, it never loses its novelty. One can say to one's self every morning: 'There's that letter of Morse's; I haven't read it yet. I think I'll take another shy at it to-day, and maybe I shall be able, in the course of a few years, to make out what he means by those t's that look like w's and those i's that haven't any eye-brows.' Other letters are read and thrown away and forgotten, but yours are kept forever—unread. One of them will last a reasonable man a lifetime. Admiringly yours, T. B. ALDRICH."

Tried to Escape. "Now, gentlemen of the jury," remarked the police court prosecutor for the twentieth time, "as further evidence of this defendant's guilt I will call your attention to his attempt to escape after arrest. No innocent man, gentlemen, tries to—"

"I object to such argument," roared the defendant's attorney. "There is not a scintilla of evidence to show that this man ever attempted to escape." The prosecutor gazed at opposing counsel plying and resumed:

"As I was saying, gentlemen of the jury, no innocent man will try to escape when arrested for a crime he did not commit."

"Again I appeal to the court. There is absolutely no evidence that this man ever thought of escaping. On the contrary, he surrendered himself into custody as soon as he learned that a warrant had been issued for his arrest."

"Do you mean to say, sir," demanded the prosecutor, half indignantly, half scornfully, "that this man made no attempt to escape?"

"I do—most emphatically."

"Then, sir, tell me, if you can, why he pleaded not guilty, if it was not a deliberate attempt to escape the consequences of his unlawful act? Tell me that," and with an air of triumph the prosecutor resumed his argument.

A Double Refracting Finder.

In the great number of cameras that are manufactured for the use of amateur photographers the ground glass plate at the top of the "finder" has always been more or less a source of trouble and vexation. It was found, under certain conditions of weather, and especially in strong sunlight, that when the operator sought to have clearly defined in the finder the picture to be taken, the image was confused and baffling, and the promptitude of the exposure was often interfered with, at the risk of spoiling the picture.

The new double refraction finder provides a steady and effective means of overcoming this difficulty. The usual ground glass is entirely dispensed with, and in its place is a lens on which the image is clearly and steadily reflected by a mirror acting in conjunction with a powerful convex lens. This gives a finder with a greatly increased degree of luminosity, and the operator has no further hesitation or anxiety in the adjustment of his camera. This device is likely to be appreciated by both amateur and professional photographers.

Asiatic Criminals.

The worst features in the Asiatic criminal is his vindictiveness. To plot against the life of one who has done his best to compass your fall, who has dishonored wife or daughter, or lain in wait for a son; to shoot a grasping landlord and knock a land agent on the head—these sort of episodes are familiar enough in British annals of crime. But in his thirst for revenge the Asiatic will sacrifice himself, his wife, his child, his unoffending neighbor, if he can only get up a case against a rival. Human life for him has no sanctity. If the native policeman sought to discover a human body in the premises of his deadly foe, with clothes and ornaments, any one may be sacrificed to supply the corpus delicti.—The Saturday Review.

New Frying Pan.

A frying pan constructed on an improved principle has been invented by Inspector Ludbrooke, of the Great Western Railway, England. His pan consists of an outer plate of sheet iron and an inner one of burnished steel, and between the two is a thin layer of asbestos, the advantages claimed for it being that it cannot get overheated and burn the contents; that the fat will not splutter over the sides, and the juices of the meat are retained.

Oh, What a Time.

The discovery was made by a bride in Bloomfield, N. J., on her way to the church that she had on dark shoes instead of white. She insisted on returning to change them. As she was about to re-enter the vehicle, she fell and sprained her ankle. Before the carriage reached the church, a wheel rolled off and the bridal party had a severe shaking up.

## FACTS AND FIGURES.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

A Record that the Republican Party Has Reason to Be Proud Of—Floods of Foreign Farm-Staffs Coming—Wilson Gets Angry.

Can't Be Contradicted. Soon after the civil war, in 1870, only 4.74 per cent. of our total imports of foreign goods were admitted free of duty. The total amount of customs duties paid in that year was \$191,513,974, which was equal to \$4.96 per capita of our population.

Five years later, in 1875, as much as 27.83 per cent. of our total imports were goods admitted free of duty. The total amount of customs duties paid in 1875 was \$154,554,983, which was \$3.51 per capita of our population.

Ten years later, in 1885, as much as 33.28 per cent. of our total imports were goods admitted free of duty. The total amount of customs duties paid in 1885 was \$178,151,001, which was \$3.17 per capita of our population.

Seven years later, in 1892, in the height of our prosperity, as much as 56.30 per cent. of our total imports were goods admitted free of duty. The total amount of customs duties paid in 1892 was \$174,124,270, which was less than in any year since 1870, and only \$2.93 per capita of our population.

During this period of twenty-two years our imports of goods free of duty increased from 4.74 per cent. of all imports to 56.30 per cent. The total amount of money paid by the people for customs duties, notwithstanding the enormous increase in our population of 27,000,000 persons, was \$17,389,704 less in 1892 than in 1870. The per capita proportion of our customs duties was reduced from \$4.96 to \$2.93, a decrease of \$2.30 for every man, woman and child in the country. This was the result of undisturbed protection.

It must not be imagined, however, that this large reduction in the people's contribution to the cost of government was accompanied by an increase in the national debt as the result of inefficient administration. Quite the contrary.

In 1870 the outstanding principal of the public debt of the United States amounted to \$2,480,672,427.81, or \$64.33 per capita of our population. In 1892 it amounted to only \$1,628,840,152.63, or \$25.06 per capita on a basis of 65,000,000 population.

We thus have the following facts:

CUSTOMS DUTIES.		
Year.	Total.	Per cap.
1870.....	\$191,513,974	\$4.96
1892.....	174,124,270	2.93

Decrease..... \$17,389,704 \$2.30

PUBLIC DEBT.

Year.	Total.	Per cap.
1870.....	\$2,480,672,428	\$64.33
1892.....	1,628,840,152	25.06

Decrease..... \$851,832,276 \$39.27

During these twenty-two years of undisturbed protection the total annual amount of customs duties decreased by \$17,389,704, or \$2.30 per capita, even with an increase of 27,000,000 in our population. During the same period the outstanding principal of the public debt was decreased by \$851,832,276, or \$39.27 per capita, reducing it from \$64.33 in 1870 down to \$25.06 in 1892.

This is a record that the Republican party has reason to be proud of. It is a record that should compel the restoration of the policy of protection.

Where Are We At?



Sheffield Shippers Happy.

In his annual report to the Department of State, Consul Bedle, of Sheffield, England, under date of Oct. 11, says that there has been a falling off of over \$600,000 in the declared value of exports to the United States from the district of Sheffield during the year ending September 30, 1894, as compared with the same period of 1893. The decrease is chiefly in steel, \$368,000; cutlery, \$185,000; and steel shells, \$28,000.

"The volume of trade has been smaller than for many years past, if not the smallest in the history of the consulate, and is due to the general depression that has existed, and principally to the hesitancy to contract in the face of prospective tariff changes."

With reference to the new tariff law of the United States he says:

"Notwithstanding the fact that the new act only came into effect on Aug. 28, improvement in the cutlery trade immediately set in and the exports of this line of goods during the quarter just ended were the largest since Sept. 30, 1890. There is already increased business confidence, and there is good reason to expect improved trade with the United States."

Floods of Foreign Farm-Staffs.

The effect of the new United States tariff is being felt in increased trade with Northern Mexico, writes Consul J. B. Gorman. Large exportations of dressed hides, mules, horses, etc., have been added to the usual exports heretofore made, and the prospect for a large spring business is most cheering. Under the operations of the McKin-

ley law, all live stock ceased to be exported to the United States from Mexico, the tariff on horses and mules being \$30 each, or from twice to three times the selling value of the animals here in Mexico. The United States tariff amounted to a total prohibition, and, until thirty days ago, not a live animal of any description had been exported. Large exportations of dressed hides (leather) show another new feature that shares the benefit of the Wilson schedule.

His Withers Unwring.

Hon. William L. Wilson is getting angry. In the course of a speech which he made at a Boston banquet the other day—not the banquet given by the Home Market Club—Mr. Wilson, speaking of the result of the recent election, said:

"This was not a deliberate condemnation of our party and what it has done. The kick comes from the heels of the American people; there was very little brains in it. They were conscious of being hurt, that their withers were wrung, so they kicked the first thing in sight, that was the Democratic party, without questioning whether or not it was responsible for their sufferings."

There are other asses that have not sense, vigor or brains enough to learn to kick even. They only squirm around on their withers.

Editors Carried Away.

The English papers have been gloat- ing over that distorted interview with Hon. Thomas B. Reed, in which it was claimed that the ex-Speaker had modified his views in regard to the McKin- ley protective tariff, and they are talking about "the bold bid for favor" that the Republican party is making in this country. We also learn that "the probable consequence of this change of front will be to drive the Democrats nearer free trade." It is but fair to our English contemporaries to state that these opinions were expressed prior to our elections of November 6, which must have somewhat staggered them. There is no class of papers in the world that is more easily gulled by fake reports and distorted interviews than the English provincial press. They are so anxious for the establishment of free trade in this country that they let their brains run away from them, never stopping to think that Americans are not all fools.

About the Size of It.



Bradford's Big Business.

The first shipments of goods after the passage of the new tariff bill, and understood to come wholly under its provisions, were for the week beginning Aug. 19 and ending Aug. 25. For this week invoices to the number of 100 were declared, against eighty the previous week, and so few as fifty in some previous weeks. This was the largest number in any week for a year previously. The total value of these declared exports for the week was \$180,000, compared with \$110,000 the previous week. The value of free wool declared during this week was \$51,000, compared with \$3,000 the previous week. In a few months prior to this time, however, there had been shipped a considerable quantity of wool as well as manufactured goods, to go into bond and await the operation of the new tariff.

CLAUDE MEEKER, Consul.

Bradford, Aug. 28, 1894.

Before and After.

"The special representatives of protection in Congress and elsewhere in public life have had their day. They will disappear as party leaders. They are discredited in the partisan politics of the country. They will drop to the rear of the marching column."—Chicago Herald, Sept. 25, 1894.

Excepting, perhaps, the army of 250 representatives of protection that will control the House of Representatives in the Fifty-fourth Congress.

Victory for Defenders.

The voice of the people as spoken at the polls is emphatic evidence that the surrender of our markets to competition with the poorly paid labor of Europe will not be tolerated by American voters. It is not a triumph for the Republican party alone, but a victory for the defenders of American homes and American industries.—Grand Rapids, Mich., Herald.

A Cold Christmas.



## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

THOUGHTS WORTHY OF CALM REFLECTION.

A Pleasant, Interesting, and Instructive Lesson, and Where It May Be Found—A Learned and Concise Review of the Same.

Lesson for Jan. 6.

Golden Text—"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul."—Matt. 10: 28.

The beheading of John the Baptist is the subject of this lesson. Herod-John. These two mentioned in the same verse, one distinguished for infamy, the other for piety. They will never be so close together again; as far apart thenceforth as hell and heaven. So do the bad and the good confront each other a moment here, just a moment; after this—God's bar. "Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold of John." The word for sent forth is apostle. The devil has his own apostles, sent to do ill. Beware of them.

"For Herodias' sake." For sin's sake, for selfish and sensual indulgence, most of the evil has come upon this world. It began thus in the garden. For John had said unto Herod, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." And so, presently, off went his head. But did that make it "lawful"? Did that change the nature of the sin? Alas, poor Herod, whipped doubtless by conscience and remorse, driven to his dismal exile and eternal death. He is not the only one that has thought by the futile sword to loosen the everlasting grip of God's law.

"Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him." It was not with him, but against him, or rather against her better self and the truth. John quarreled with no one; he simply stated the truth and the quarrel that ensued was an internal one, in the woman's own mind. It is the kind of a quarrel the truth always starts in a mind where Satan's seat is. The margin says, and quite literally (see also Luke xi. 53, where the same Greek verb is used), she had "an inward grudge" toward him. Satan has a "grudge," a "quarrel," against you, brother or sister, every time you denounce sin in any shape. Alas, that such disagreement should even abate in this naughty world.

"Herod feared John." Sin always fears righteousness; the bad man is inwardly afraid of the good man. This accounts for the fact that, as the context informs us, when Herod heard of Jesus he thought of haunting ghosts and of an avenging Nemesis. The King James version says that accordingly Herod "observed John," rather kept him safe, i. e., for his own safety. (The Revision is more accurate here with this verse.) Perhaps if we understand by the word "observed" that he kept his eye upon him, we shall not go far astray. It is the man who is preaching the truth without fear or favor that the world sets a watch upon.

The other man, the one that trims his sail to the popular breeze—never mind him, no danger from that quarter. But Herod feared John. But this fear works no reforms, and at last, as with such fear usually, it comes to its rational fruitage; it works the death of the man feared. Feared by Herod; hated by Herodias. There is always a hating Herodias to lead a fearful and vacillating Herod on; and there is always a daughter of said Herodias, with her lascivious charms, to give occasion. Possibly the weak Herod did not realize what he was doing till there at last was the head of the dead prophet before him, and sin had done its worst. It was on "a convenient day" that it all happened. And for Herod, and Herodias and Herodias' daughter, and for John, and for all of us there is coming another day—the day of judgment.

Hints and Illustrations.

John the Baptist was a hero, every inch of him. He was of the stuff of which martyrs are made, and so he became seed for the church. Look at him from any side and he looms up large and unswerving. Does he seem to have weakened in his message to Jesus toward the close? Out of that very weakness, if weakness it may be called—we prefer to look upon it as in keeping with his general repose of faith—he is made, in our estimation, strong. It but gives him opportunity for a splendid exhibition of resignation. This, indeed, was the motive of his life: "He must increase, but I must decrease." As a preacher he spoke the truth, plainly, directly; as a prophet he warned openly, boldly; as a forerunner he left behind the echo of a voice saying: "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world," and the vision of a finger pointing straight toward the Christ; as a man, he stood forth chaste in youth, devoted in service, upright and noble and good. Give us another like him.

Study the resultant of lives. The after-thought and echo of John's life was—Christ. It is a curious thing that when Herod saw or heard of Jesus he thought at once of John, and, we may believe, trembled. It is a blessed thing when death yields such good fruitage.

Herod destroyed John's life, but not his testimony. They cut off his head, yet he finished his course and his witness to Christ shone all the brighter. His life testimony, the cross of Christ, his death witness, the same. A lone life prisoner in one of the terrible dungeons of Europe crept at last to the side of his cell and began with a piece of nail to etch his last testimony on the stone wall. And when it was found, what was it? Not the record of his pains and privations; not his own name, or even his initials. There stood the graven outline of a cross. It was the sign John left behind his life and his prison journal. "In hoc signo vinces," yea, more than conquer.

Next Lesson—"Feeding the Five Thou-

sand." Mark 6: 30-44.

Easily Digested.

The most easily digested meats are: Cold mutton, mutton chops, venison, tenderloins, sirloin steaks, lamb chops, roast beef, rabbit and chicken.

They Don't Count.

The response of a certain Frenchman to a handsome woman who complained that she had discovered three gray hairs in her head, was paradoxical but pretty. "Madam," he said, "so long as they can be counted, they don't count."

New Western Enterprises.

A railroad is to be built from Los Angeles to Salt Lake, 1,500 miles; one from Colorado to the asphalt region of Utah, one from Natchez, Miss., to Texarkana, Texas, and one of 300 miles in Mexico.